



INL's John Snyder was one of several speakers invited to address a recent Meridian Economic Excellence breakfast for business, government and education leaders.

INL highlights bioscience R&D at Meridian Economic Excellence forum

by [Marilyn Whitney](#), INL Communications & Public Affairs

Idaho National Laboratory's international leadership in nuclear research, its biotechnology research and development, and the Advanced Test Reactor's unique capabilities in isotope production for cancer therapy all provide valuable economic development resources for Idaho. That was the message INL's John Snyder delivered at a recent Meridian Economic Excellence event.



John Snyder, INL commercialization manager, discusses a Treasure Valley health sciences corridor with Meridian Mayor Tammy de Weerd.

Economic development and job creation topped the list of priorities as business, government and education leaders met to hear how the Treasure Valley can tap into health sciences and technology to create an economic engine for the future. Idaho is in the midst of a "perfect storm of opportunity," Mark Gilbreath, chief executive of VengaWorks in Meridian, said in his opening remarks.

Snyder, an INL commercialization manager, was one of several invited speakers at the event. He described the wide range of biotechnology research and development being performed at the lab — including the use of microbes in energy production and recovery, advances in bioremediation of contaminated materials and the award-winning antibody profiling technology.

Snyder highlighted INL's biosciences technology and potential medical and dental applications. He discussed the development of blue mussel adhesive, coated medical implants, boron neutron capture therapy for brain tumors and anti-viral agents, all of which have patents issued or

pending. Snyder also emphasized the Advanced Test Reactor's unique capabilities in isotope production for cancer therapy. And, he explained how INL's international leadership in nuclear research, development, demonstration and deployment provides a valuable economic development resource for Idaho.

Featured speakers also included Don Dietrich, director of the Idaho Department of Commerce; Pam Bernard, chief operating officer at St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center; Bessie Katsilometes, dean of ISU-Boise/Meridian; and Dr. Joe Williams of the Idaho Urologic Institute.

Dietrich highlighted Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's Project 60 initiative to grow Idaho's gross state product from \$51 billion to \$60 billion. Project 60 seeks to strengthen both rural and urban communities, creating quality jobs for all Idahoans by fostering systemic growth, recruiting new companies to Idaho, and selling Idaho's trade and investment opportunities to the world. Dietrich proposed that with the most patents per capita, Idaho would benefit from a centralized technology transfer and commercialization effort to better capitalize on this advantage.

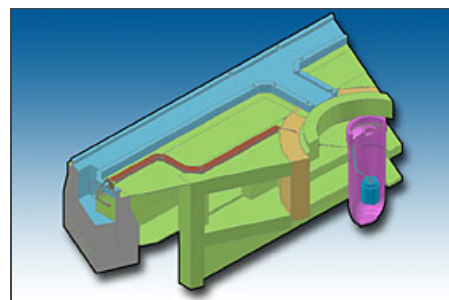
As Dean Katsilometes explained, Idaho State University's Boise program is focused on addressing the growing demand for health care professionals, offering 25 degree programs including nursing, paramedic science, pharmacy, speech pathology and dental hygiene. In addition, ISU-Boise has partnered with the Meridian school district to offer health sciences dual credit for secondary students at Meridian's new Renaissance High School.

View Snyder's [Bioscience Presentation](#).

Read more about [Project 60](#).

Visit the [Meridian Chamber of Commerce](#) website.

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An artist rendering of the Hydraulic Shuttle Irradiation System recently installed in ATR for medical isotope production.